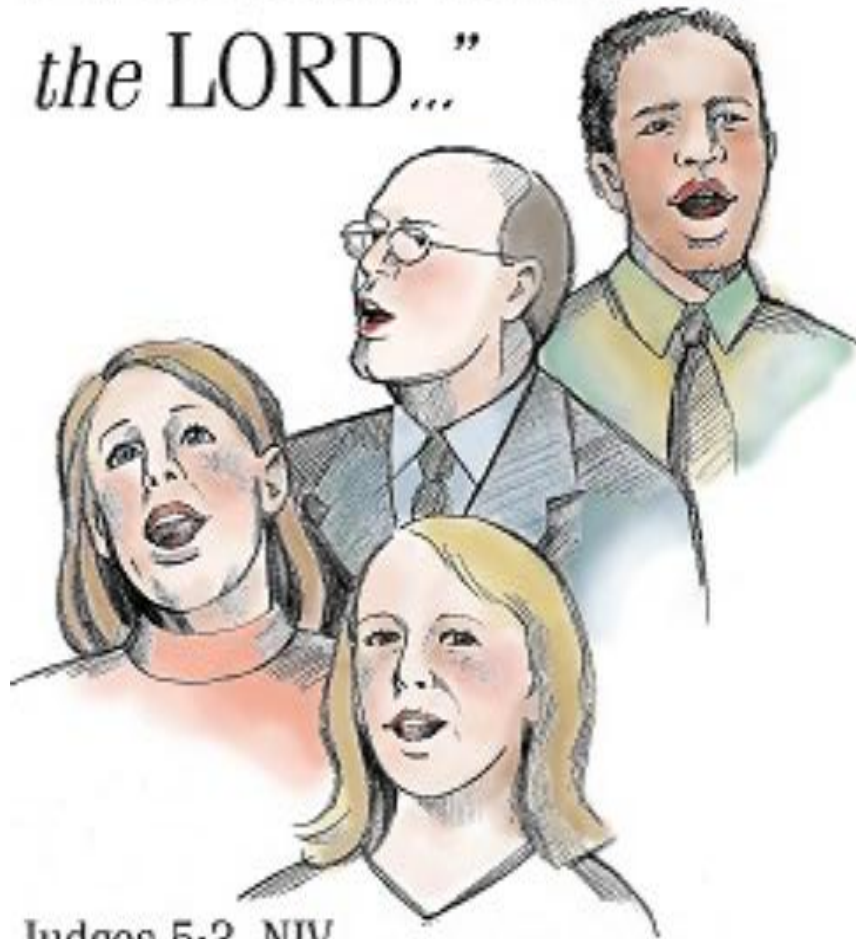


# THE NET

## FEBRUARY 2024

*"I will sing to the  
LORD, I will sing;  
I will make music to  
the LORD..."*



Judges 5:3, NIV



# St. Peter's Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American

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Ocean City, MD 21842  
Phone 410-524-7474  
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Rev. Frank Harpster, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Harry Biles, Assistant Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Harry Wolpert, Pastor Emeritus  
Mr. Elsworth Wheatley, Minister of Music  
Mr. Keith Hall, Praise Team Leader  
Ms. Amy Morgan, Office Manager

## ++Pastor's Message++

by Pastor Frank Harpster

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace, Peace, and Mercy be to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.....Amen

It seems that we are just catching our breath from very busy Advent and Christmas seasons, and it is already February, and Lent begins in two weeks.

This year, February is unique. It is a unique February because it is a leap year and there are 29 days in the month; and also because Ash Wednesday falls on February 14<sup>th</sup>, which is when we celebrate Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day originated as a Christian holiday celebrating the Feast of St. Valentine, a roman Saint who was martyred on February 14, 269. Over the years, Valentine's Day has developed into a secular holiday celebrating "romantic love." Valentine's Day has become very commercialized over the years, and it is reported that people spent almost \$26 billion on cards, candy, and other valentine's gifts in 2023. That number is expected to be even higher this year. Imagine how many people could be fed, clothed, sheltered, and cared for with that \$26 billion.

This year on February 14<sup>th</sup>, we will also be celebrating a different kind of love. Instead of symbol of hearts, many of us will have an ashen cross put on our foreheads as we hear the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," marking the beginning of our Lenten journey.

The love that is celebrated on Ash Wednesday, and throughout the 40 days of Lent, is much stronger and much more powerful than the romantic love we celebrate on Valentine's Day. It is the ultimate "Agape" love that God has for you, and for all of God's children. It is a love that began at creation, when God formed us from the dust of the earth, and was exemplified with Jesus's journey to the cross and the empty grave to guarantee God's "Agape" love through our salvation. It is a love that was born in a manger, only to hang on a cross, and to be raised 3 days later.

Lent is our opportunity to be more intentional on focusing on our faith journey by learning more about God's "Agape" love for us, as well as our call to love one another with that same love. The season of Lent invites us to be more intentional about focusing on our relationship with God and neighbor by practicing spiritual disciplines that strengthen our resolve to "seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33).

Lent is not about "giving up" something for the sake of giving it up. It is about removing things that may stand in the way of our more intentional focus on our relationships with God and neighbor. It is about discovering, or rediscovering, the sacrificial love that God has for us, and the sacrificial love we are to have for God and neighbor. This is often done by being more intentional in prayer, fasting, works of piety, works of mercy, and sacrificial giving. The forty days of Lent remind us of the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert and the sacrifices he made for us.

It is my prayer that we will share in this journey with one another in ways that will enable us to strengthen our relationships with God, with one another, and with all of the people God puts in our lives.

I wish you a Happy Valentine's Day and a Blessed Lent. I pray all God's blessings for you as we journey together through this Lenten season. Please let me know what I can do to help make your Lenten journey more meaningful and fulfilling.

May God Bless You, as You ARE a Blessing to Others!

Pastor Frank, Your Senior Pastor



## **++ST. PETER'S MINISTRY TEAMS++**

### **ALTAR GUILD**

by Marianne Siegert

The arrival of Epiphany also signals the removal of Christmas decorations at home and at church. Your Altar Guild along with some other volunteers were able to un-decorate the church as well as put everything away in about an hour. The green paraments will remain until Transfiguration Sunday. There is usually a bit of sadness when all of the Christmas lights are turned off and put away. However, the good news is that the light of Christ envelopes us both in our homes and our church.

Submitted by Marianne Siegert

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

by Mary Lou Tietz

With the Easter season upon us soon, the Community Services Committee will be collecting candy and other articles to make up Easter baskets for the kids who are a part of the families we support every year, and we will also be providing a meal. We will begin collection of items for the baskets on the 18th of February--a basket will be in the Narthex to put donated items in, and the deadline for bringing in items to the Church will be the 17th of March. The baskets and dinners will be delivered, then, in the next two following weeks. If you are unable to buy any of the items on the attached list or that you will see listed in the bulletin, but would like to participate, please send a check labeled **Easter Family Support**, to the church, and we will use the funds to buy food items and items for the baskets. We always try to provide a full meal inclusive of hams.

**Basket donations needed are candy, plastic eggs, grass, coloring books, crayons & colored pencils. \$10 Walmart cards and Food Lion cards are also greatly appreciated.**

Please also remember our Shelter program. With temperatures falling into the low teens and so many people needing to be brought in off the streets to have a warm place to sleep and a hot meal, we are blessed to be able to have a shelter available through the month of March. Your help preparing a hot meal, registering people and /or staying overnight would be much appreciated by the Ocean City Crisis Coalition who runs the shelter. For more information on how you can help, please contact either Pastor Frank or Amy in the church office at 410-524-7474

One last request is that you contact Amy at the Church or Mary Lou Tietz, at 302-539-0793, if you know of any military member you have a relationship with and would like to see them receive a word of support from St

Peter's. We would love to recognize their service and remember them with cards and gifts throughout the year.

Our next Community Services meeting will be held February 14th at 2:00 at the Church. Come join us if you can!! Mary Lou Tietz

### **OPEN DOOR FREE LUNCH MINISTRY**

Pastor Frank

#### **JOIN US FOR LUNCH ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 12-1:30 P.M.**

We are offering a sit down meal, served to folks at their tables. For the safety and well-being of everyone involved, we are not serving meals buffet style at this time.

Thank you to Bob and Dianna Detwiler and Steve and Trish Kiser for leading free the lunch part of the Open Door Feeding Ministry; to Doug and Linda Harry for leading the food pantry operations; our soup maker, Lee Creamer, and all the volunteers, supporters, and contributors who make this ministry possible.

We ask for your prayers, support, and volunteers are always welcome as we continue to grow and nurture this very important ministry.

### **FELLOWSHIP**

Susanne Howard & Linda Grahe

Welcome 2024, and with that the Fellowship Team is on the move. Our team will start hosting our first Lent Soup Suppers on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 and will continue every Wednesday through March 27th. With that said, we are calling for all our delicious soup and dessert makers to show us your talents once again with a variety of great soups and desserts. As in the previous year, our soups will be available for sale at \$4.00 per quart with all proceeds going to the General Fund. Our Soup Suppers will start at 5:30 p.m. (preceding Lent Services at 6:30 p.m.), and we ask that your soups arrive approximately 5:15 p.m. and are already warm.

Our Fellowship Team is always looking for more volunteers to expand our team and collaborate with us and share in providing set-ups for various occasions. If you feel that you would like to share in our efforts to serve St. Peter's and our community, please call Susanne Howard 443-442-4285, or see Linda Grahe or myself after our Sunday Worship Services.

The Fellowship Team will continue to serve coffee, tea, and pastries before and after each Sunday Service.

Blessings to all

## FUND RAISING

By Linda Grahe & Susanne Howard

In 2023, we raised \$4,059.30 for our new roof and \$1,635.53 went to our General Fund, for a **TOTAL of \$5,694.83**. Thank you all very much for your participation and support in our Fundraising events.

**Super Bowl Sub Sale** - We continue to accept orders for subs in the CLC (after services) with Sunday, February 4th being the last day to place an order. The Super Bowl Sub Sale includes a choice of: Ham & Cheese, Turkey, Chicken Salad, or Tuna Salad with a choice of toppings - (lettuce, tomato, onion, and/or cheese). A \$10.00 donation per sub includes a bag of chips. The subs will be prepared on Saturday, February 10th from 11:00 AM - 1 PM and will be available for **pick-up at 1 PM (on Saturday) or on Sunday, February 11th, after services**. We wish to thank you for supporting our 1st Fundraising Event for 2024.

Save the Date - **Saturday, March 23, 2024, for Breakfast with the Easter Bunny**, pictures with Easter Bunny and an Easter Egg Hunt to follow. More information to follow.

A **Craft & Vendor Fair** is being planned for on **Saturday, April 13, 2024**. Crafters & Vendors are needed, please contact Linda Grahe at 443-608-8068 for more information & to sign-up.

All monies raised will go to St. Peter's Lutheran Church's General Fund.  
Thanks

## MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

by Paul Grahe

We will meet on Saturday, February 10, 2024 in the CLC with the ladies to enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared by our Chef, Pastor Frank. **Note: we are meeting on the 2nd Saturday instead of the 3rd Saturday.**

We will then move to our designated areas to do our studies. Pastor Frank will lead our discussion on the Christian Virtue - Justice. Remember to bring your Bible with you. If you are planning to attend, see me in the CLC on Sundays after the church services or call me at 443-604-8068 so the proper amount of food can be prepared. A free-will offering will be collected.

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY (S.A.M.)

by Pastor Harry

### SAM FEBRUARY 2024 NET

Greetings! The new year is off to a great start for Senior Adult Ministry. Our January event was watching *INVINCIBLE* in the Son and Sand Retreat Center. The 19 who attended all expressed appreciation for the movie and there were a number of profound take home life lessons that were shared from the film. We also enjoyed popcorn and root beer floats as usual. This has become one of our favorite traditions.

## LOOKING AHEAD:

**February 8** – Valentine's Day theme luncheon at Fager's Island. We will be in a room to ourselves and order from the menu with individual checks. Look forward to good food and great fellowship! We will also have a mini planning meeting in conjunction with this. You are invited to bring any ideas or suggestions for SAM.

**March 14** – Field trip to Clear Space Theatre for *My Fair Lady*. Details for lunch are in process. I have reserved 55 seats for us at the theater! A sign-up sheet will soon be posted in the Narthex at church. The cost for Clear Space will be \$25 per person. Will let you know about lunch ASAP.

**April** – We have a number of suggestions that are pending. Stay tuned!!!

**May 9** – Bonfire on the Beach at Assateague! We will give this another try by popular demand. We may pare back a bit as far as hot dogs are concerned. The suggestion has been to have everyone bring their own food, and we will roast marshmallows for s'mores.

**June** – open for suggestions

**July** – Shorebirds game on a Saturday evening with fireworks. Date to be determined.

**August** – Choptank River cruise (Suicide Bridge) with crab cake lunch.

**December 5** – 11:00 am *White Christmas* at Clear Space Theater, followed by 1:30 pm lunch at Boardwalk Plaza Hotel. Again, I have reserved 55 seats at both places!

As you can see we have a number of special events planned. But there are some open dates for any suggestions. So please feel free to contact me with any thoughts or questions.

Blessings,

Pr. Harry Biles  
443.944.4779  
harrybiles@aol.com

## SON & SAND RETREAT CENTER

by Paul Grahe

I prepared a letter about changes to the operation of the retreat center beginning in 2024. This letter will be sent out to all the visiting churches and groups who have come on retreat in the past. I want to thank Amy for making changes to our website and other paperwork.

Looking ahead to this year, we look forward to welcoming our visiting churches/groups and to providing our guests a positive encounter with the church of Jesus Christ by helping them understand they can be FED by God's people everywhere.

An important part of running the retreat center is our Son & Sand Greeters. If you would like to become part of this ministry as a Son & Sand Greeter, you can see me

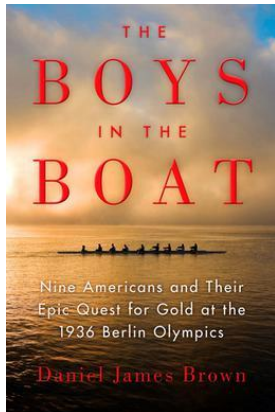


in the CLC after church services on Sundays or contact me at 443-604-8068. As we share God's love and St. Peter's hospitality, I give thanks to those who serve as Son & Sand Greeters.

My contact information is: 410-430-4743 and [Debryan57@gmail.com](mailto:Debryan57@gmail.com). Blessings, Debbie Ryan

**SPIRITUAL READINGS**

by Deacon, Sharey Biles



**February Spiritual Readings**

The Spiritual Readings Group plans to set the meeting date for a February discussion at their meeting on January 29. We will let you know what date is chosen. Here is a quote from the beginning of the The Boys in the Boat:

*It's a great art, is rowing. It's the finest art there is. It's a symphony of motion. And when you're rowing well, why it's nearing perfection. And when you near perfection, you're touching the Divine. It touches the you of you. Which is your soul.*

As we discuss this book, we may even notice how some comments can relate to the work of the Church!

Blessings,  
Sharey Biles, deacon  
443.944.7241

**ST. PETER'S WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

by Debbie Ryan

**Women's Bible Study**

Our Zoom Ruth's Circle Bible study is held on the first Thursday of every month at 2:00 PM. This month we will meet on February 1st. We will continue our study using, "It's All Under Control Bible Study" by Jennifer Duke Lee.

For our in-person Women's Bible study, we meet at church, with breakfast provided by Pastor Frank. We meet on the third Saturday of the month at 9:00 am for breakfast and 10:00 am for study. However this month we will meet on **February 10th**. We will continue our study using, "Encouraging One Another" by Nicole Johnson.

**WITNESS**

By Evelyn Houston

Now is the time to begin preparing for Lent. It's become an awkward time, because modern society finds the tradition of fasting, giving up a beloved habit, or strengthening your faith with renewed prayer and meditation, kinds of traditions that are rather useless. As Catholics told us when giving up meatless Fridays years ago, such practices just don't fulfill any spiritual function in this time and place. I disagree.

Most of the time in my life I hum along and figure I can and will handle whatever comes my way by the power of my own hard work, intelligence, creativity, or with my own resources. I turn to God for the "big stuff" but end up feeling I have failed to ask God for help. This is so backwards from what God offers and expects!

Jesus made many sacrifices for us during His time in the wilderness. He resisted temptation and kept away from what the devil tried to coerce Him to do. It was a bold and faith filled step of obedience and dedication to God.

Throughout this 40-day juncture of Lent, take the time to think about the things that are holding you back from being a benefit to you. Appreciate this time of repentance, grace, and forgiveness to think about how you have been living your life lately. Are you turning to God all of the time and not just for the "big stuff?"

Unfortunately, the struggle to deny self and rely on God is one that goes on all of the time. Relying on God is more than a command, it is a gift -- a gift from a God who promises to be our refuge and strength. We need to claim that promise and put our trust in Him.



**++ST. PETER'S NEWS++**

**COUNCIL NEWS**

by Susanne Howard, Council Secretary

From January 16, 2024 Meeting

**TREASURER**

**Treasurer's Report/Dave Wolinski** at the midpoint of our fiscal year last July - We are still operating at a weekly deficit, however, that has been cut in half. Liquid assets are also up. Unfortunately, the improvement is mostly attributable to the reduction in our mortgage payment, and

without that reduction, we would be 40 weeks away from zero liquid assets. While still in a deficit situation, the increase in liquid assets has extended our cash reserves into the Spring of 2025.

### PARKING LOT LIGHT

**Evan McDermott/Dan Holtzer-Parking Lot Light Pole Damage-** Dan reached out to Ashore Hotel to see if they would work with St. Peter's to have the light post repaired. There was not a favorable response. If anyone knows of a company or a licensed electrician that we can reach out to, to get the light pole repaired, please reach out to Dan Holtzer.

### **Ministry Team Reports Pastor's Report:**

#### PASTOR FRANK

- + will have foot reconstruction Surgery on Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Harry will be covering Pastoral Emergencies during this time, and worship service if necessary.
- + "Super Bowl of Caring"-Sunday, February 11. We will be collecting cans of soup for the food pantry and taking a second offering to support ELCA World Hunger. You are invited to wear your favorite team jersey.
- + Pastor Harry, Bettye Wolinski, Deacon Sharey, and Pastor Frank will prepare and serve the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Sausage dinner on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7pm.
- + New Member classes will be offered in March, with 5 people interested in becoming Members of St. Peter's.
- + **Mid-Week Lent Soup Suppers and Worship Services** will be held each Wednesday, starting February 14<sup>th</sup> (Ash Wednesday) at 5:30 p.m. through March 27<sup>th</sup> with Worship Services immediately following at 6:30 p.m.

#### PASTOR HARRY

- + Pastor Harry continues to offer, on a volunteer basis, preaching and presiding at worship services, leading the Senior Adult Ministry (S.A.M.), and other areas of ministry as needed.

#### S.A.M. Upcoming Events:

**February 8<sup>th</sup>**- Valentine Luncheon Fager's Restaurant  
**March 14<sup>th</sup>** – My Fair Lady at Clear Space Theater and Lunch

### ST. PETER'S HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**March 24<sup>th</sup>-Palm Sunday** Services at 9 a.m. (Contemporary) and 10:30 a.m. (Traditional)  
**March 28<sup>th</sup>-Maundy Thursday** Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.  
**March 29<sup>th</sup>-Good Friday** Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.  
**March 31<sup>st</sup>- Resurrection** Worship Services at 9 am (Contemporary) and 10:30 am (Traditional)

St. Peter's will host a **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt** on **Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**. more information to follow.

### AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

**December - 70 per week  
Christmas Eve - 94 (2 services)**

### MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION TOTALS

**Total Contributions as of December 31, 2023**  
**\$421,252.00 Year-to-Date Budget**  
**\$356,250.55 Year-to-Date Received**  
**\$(-65,001.45) Year-to-Date Difference**

### OUR CURRENT REALITY AT ST. PETER'S

#### **Life at St. Peter's**

Our worship schedule offers a Contemporary Worship Service at 9:00 a.m. and a Traditional Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday. We are offering Holy Communion at both services, handing you the bread and pouring red wine into your cup. We also have gluten free wafers and pre-filled cups of white grape juice for those who request/require them. Those who are not yet comfortable sharing in Holy Communion in this fashion are still in full Communion through the words of promise.

You are encouraged to share the "Peace of God" in whatever way you feel comfortable.

Both Services are in the Sanctuary with Coffee and Pastries available in the CLC before and after each service.

**Masks are no longer required for anyone**, but you are encouraged to wear a mask if you are more comfortable doing so. Masks are available at the Greeter's Desk.

Hand sanitizer – available throughout the building.

Water fountain is available to be used.

We are live streaming the 10:30 Worship Service. This service is then uploaded to our website to be viewed later. The live stream is available through our website and YouTube page.

***We are still looking for a couple folks who would be willing to help with live streaming from time to time.***

**Please join us only if you feel safe and comfortable doing so.**

**If you are not feeling well or test positive for Covid 19, please stay home.**

Please contact Pastor Frank or Council President, Evan McDermott if you have any questions.

## **OTHER GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND GROUPS**

### **The church building is open for in house meetings and choir practices.**

St. Peter's Council meetings are being held in person.

Ministry Teams are meeting in whatever way they are most comfortable; either in person or via Zoom.

The building is open for outside groups. Those meetings/gatherings must make reservations coordinated through the church office.

Amy is in the office Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Please contact her via phone, text, or email. Pastor Frank has office hours Tuesdays 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Wednesdays 1-3 p.m. and other times by appointment. Pastor Frank is always available by phone, text, or email.

Pastor Frank is leading bible study in person (room 5) and online (see info on the Bible Study section) on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

We will continue to stay connected and keep you updated with concerns and changes via the Constant Contact email system, the Call Multiplier automated prayer chain, and by mail for those who are not electronically connected.

We thank you for your continued support and partnership in the mission and ministries at St. Peter's.

## **ALTAR FLOWERS & COMMUNION ELEMENTS**



If you would like to sponsor flowers for a Sunday morning worship service *in Memory* or *in Honor* of a loved one, you may do so by calling the church office to make those arrangements. The cost for both vases is now \$95.

You may also sponsor Communion Elements for a particular Sunday in the same manner. The donation for sponsoring elements is \$20. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**



**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP, PASTOR FRANK WILL COME TO YOU!**

If you are not able to join us for in person worship and would like Pastor Frank to bring Holy Communion to you (doing what he can to keep you safe and comfortable). please

call the church office and we will arrange for that to happen.

## **MID-WEEK LENTEN SUPPER AND SERVICE**



**JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024**

For a soup supper beginning at 5:30 p.m. and Worship with the imposition of Ashes at 6:30 p.m.



We will also be sharing in soup suppers at 5:30 p.m. and Lenten Mid-Week Services at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, Feb 21 & 28 and March 6, 13, 20, 27  
*There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex for those who would like to provide soup or a dessert for any of these days.*

## **MINISTRY OF THE MONTH**



Our February Ministry of the Month is "World Hunger." Adequate, nutritious food continues to be a very real challenge for many of our sisters and brothers around the world as they struggle to feed themselves and their families. We ask that you prayerfully consider how God is calling you to share your blessings to help feed our neighbors around the world who don't have enough to eat. If you feel called to do so, please give a special donation/offering this month and designate your check or online giving to "World Hunger." Each time you sit down for a meal and pray God's blessing on that meal, please remember those who don't have enough to eat or someone to share it with.

## **PASTOR FRANK**

Pastor Frank will be having foot reconstruction surgery on Friday, February 16, 2024.

Thank you to Pastor Harry for helping to lead worship on February 18<sup>th</sup> and for covering pastoral emergencies for a few days while Pastor Frank recovers.



Please pray that Pastor Frank's surgery goes well, and that they are successful in repairing the damage caused by his last foot surgery.

## SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY

*Jesus said: "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat ...whatever you do, even for the least of these, you do for me."*



## SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>

For many, the Super bowl is a time to gather with family and friends, to share good food and fellowship, while watching an intense football game and some creative commercials.

As the gathered body of Christ, let us be part of the winning team and add to those celebrations by remembering those who don't have enough to eat, or someone to share it with.



We are asking each person to prayerfully consider bringing in a can of soup, or other non-perishable food item this day and place it on the table in front of the church. This food will be blessed and given to help feed our local sisters and brothers through our Open Door Feeding Ministry.

We will also be passing around soup pots to take a special second offering, which will be given to ELCA World Hunger to help feed our brothers and sisters from around the world who don't have enough to eat .

*Don't forget to wear your favorite team jersey to church this day.*

## TIME AND TALENT



On November 12, we gave each person in worship a new Time and Talent Sheet. We also emailed, (and

sent through the postal service for those who don't do email) an additional copy to everyone. You were asked to pray over these Time and Talent Sheets for 2 weeks and then prayerfully fill it out and return it to St. Peter's by the first week in December. The reality is that God's blessings are only true blessings when we share them.

As I shared in worship on November 12<sup>th</sup>, we don't have enough folks actively participating in our various ministries to sustain them, much less help them grow. We are also reminded that it is up to each of us, and all of us, to actively support the mission and ministries to which we are called. If you have not done so, please prayerfully fill out your Time and Talent sheet and either bring it or mail it into the church. **IF YOU HAVE NOT TURNED IN YOUR TIME AND TALENT SHEET PLEASE DO SO A.S.A.P.** If you need another sheet please contact the church office.

## WEDNESDAY INTERACTIVE & HYBRID BIBLE STUDY

### JOIN US FOR WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY



The bible studies are Interactive and Hybrid. This means that you can join us in person at St. Peter's Room 5 or you can join us via zoom by following the directions below.

Everyone is encouraged to join us either way, on whatever Wednesdays you are available!

The Bible Studies will be looking at the Scripture Readings for that Sunday's Worship Service. (the readings are emailed prior to the bible study).

To join in the study via zoom, type or cut and paste the following URL in your web browser:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89266262232>

Or you can:

1. Type [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) into your web browser
2. Click on "Join Meeting"
3. Type in Meeting ID Number:  
892 6626 2232

Please contact Pastor Frank if you have any questions.

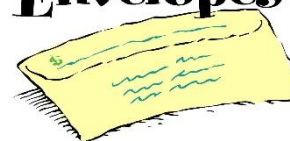
**THERE WILL BE NO BIBLE STUDY ON FEBRUARY 21<sup>st</sup> AS PASTOR FRANK WILL BE RECOVERING FROM FOOT SURGERY.**

## BEGINNING JANUARY 2024

### WE HAVE A NEW OFFERING ENVELOPE SYSTEM

Offering envelopes with your name on them are

### Offering Envelopes







## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

available to be picked up in the Narthex at St. Peter's. In an effort to be better stewards of our resources, and to cut unnecessary expenses, **we will no longer be mailing out quarterly envelopes to your home.**

The box that you pick up for 2024 will contain an envelope for each week in 2024. If you need an envelope for a special offering or something additional, there are envelopes in the pews, as well as in the Narthex and at the Greeters desk.

This new envelope system may also cause a change in your giving number. Your new number will be printed on your envelopes. If you give electronically and don't use the envelopes, this will not affect you. We asked that each person put an extra \$5 in your offering envelope on one of the weeks in January and designate it to help pay for the cost of the envelopes. Thank you for your faithful giving to the mission and ministries here at St. Peter's! Please see Pr. Frank if you have any questions.

Karen Boon	02/01	Karen Nash	02/14
Debbie Ryan	02/01	Michael J Wheatley	02/14
Elizabeth Romig	02/02	Carolyn Nuovo	02/16
Kate Long	02/03	Bob Swingler	02/17
Harry Biles	02/11	Barbara Hager	02/18
Ronald Albright	02/12	Elsie Koehler	02/20
Pamela Dolle	02/12	Eric Myers	02/25
		Larry Ryan	02/27



## GIFTS & MEMORIALS



Gifts & Memorials received in December

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF

**Patricia Ellis**

to

Gifts & Memorials

from

Her Sisters

### PRAYER CHAIN AND PRAYER LIST

by Pastor Frank

***I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.*** Ephesians 1:16

The "Call Multiplier" automated prayer chain continues to be a valuable resource and blessing. If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer, please text or call Pr. Frank at 814-279-5732 to have a prayer request sent out. If you are requesting prayer for someone else, you **MUST** have his/her permission before sending out the request. We can share as much, or as little, information as you want to be shared. When you receive a prayer call, you are asked to pause and offer prayer for the need presented. You are then asked to continue to hold that person/need in prayer. The Automated Prayer Chain will be active daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Please let Pastor Frank know if you are not receiving the prayer calls and would like to be.

**St. Peter's prayer list:** In order to keep our prayer list up to date, names that are on the prayer list (that are published in the newsletter and bulletins) will remain on the list for **one** month. If after that month, there is still a need for that person to be held in prayer, you will need to let the church office know so we can put the name back on for another month. While we want to be praying for everyone who needs our prayers, we also have to be able to keep that list current and up to date. Please see Pr. Frank if you have any questions.



### **++G4 MINISTRIES++**

**G4 Ministries...** The G4 group continues to find ways for the four Lutheran Churches on the Southern Eastern Shore to support one another.

Please continue to pray for Faith Lutheran Church, St. Albins Episcopal Church, and their pastor, Pr. Margaret Brack, as they continue to support one another in shared ministries. We ask that you also pray for Pastor Brack's husband, Jim who has been dealing with a series of health issues.

We also ask for continued prayers for Pastor Karis Graham & Community Lutheran, and for the folks at Grace of God Lutheran Church as they transition to the next phase of ministry.



### **++NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION++**



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Bill & Rose Skledar	02/07
Anne & Tom Stearns	02/14
Johan I. & Rosemary Nykvist	02/18

## PRAYER CONCERNS



Permission is needed to use your full name when publishing your request for prayers in both the bulletin and newsletter. Call the office.

**Current needs:** Chuck Pyle, Brittany Lewis, Jason, Angie, Betty June Kauffman, Karen Endley, Marian Shipley, Bridget Foster, John Sears, Family & friends of Ben LaSalle, Family & friends of Miguel Tapia, Tuvet, Heather Hardy, Pat Johnstone, Pastor Bettye Wolinski

**Ongoing needs:** Caregivers, first responders and all on the front lines working to save lives, Joe Machovec, Fred & Mary Lou Kauffman, Carol Stano, Bonnie Hiewsky, Ron & Barb Albright, Pat Pfannenstiel, Kim Councell, Jodi Wolinski, Amelia Councell, Terri Wheatley, Phil Ermer, Dave Searle, Erin Ryan, Pastor Harry Wolpert, Steve Ellis, Janet Ellis, Jen Anderson

**Assisted Living:** Claire Deickman, Mim Fritz, Violet Green,

Elsie Koehler, Mary Grahe, Betty Romig

**In the Military:** Gunnar Bogan, Justin Carter, Cal Cramer, Katie Cramer, Stephanie Dallochio, Noah Kauffman, Nicolas Nalbone, David Owens, Joshua Robinson, Nicholas Sorrentino, Jacob Sturgill

**Our Bishops:** Elizabeth Eaton & Bill Gohl

**G-4 Church Partners:**

*Community Lutheran Church (Frankford, DE)*

*Grace of God Lutheran Church (Longneck, DE)*

*Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church (Salisbury, MD)*

*St. Albans Episcopal Church*



## ++FROM ST. PETER'S OFFICE++

**PASTORAL EMERGENCIES**  
**CONTACT PASTOR HARPSTER**  
**For emergencies or after hours**  
(c) 814-279-5732

### FROM THE OFFICE

Please inform the church office of any changes in your personal information: mailing address, email address, phone numbers, marriage, divorce, or new births so we can keep our records up-to-date

## OFFICE HOURS

**Monday-Thursday 8:00am - 4:00pm**

**Friday - 8:00am-1:00pm**

## PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays - 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Wednesdays - 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Other times by appointment

## STAFF

The Rev. Frank Harpster, Senior Pastor  
[fehiiif@aol.com](mailto:fehiiif@aol.com)

The Rev. Harry Biles, Assistant Pastor  
[HarryBiles@aol.com](mailto:HarryBiles@aol.com)

The Rev. Dr. Harry Wolpert, Pastor Emeritus  
[handcoc2003@yahoo.com](mailto:handcoc2003@yahoo.com)

Mr. Elsworth Wheatley, Minister of Music  
[Wheatleymusic@aol.com](mailto:Wheatleymusic@aol.com)

Mr. Keith Hall, Praise Team Leader  
[Soulendeavors.keith@gmail.com](mailto:Soulendeavors.keith@gmail.com)

Ms. Amy Morgan, Office Manager  
[amy.splcoc@comcast.net](mailto:amy.splcoc@comcast.net)

## 2024 COUNCIL

Pastor Harpster

Pastor Biles

Evan McDermott - President

Mary Lou Tietz - Vice President

Susanne Howard - Secretary

Dave Wolinski - Treasurer (Non-voting member)

Dan Holtzer - Financial Secretary (Non-voting member)

Vonnie Brown, Dee Floyd, Bridget Foster, Linda Harry,

Fred Kauffman, Teresa Pyle, Mike Siegert, Dex Stannard,

Bettye Wolinski

## MINISTRY TEAMS & LEADERS

*Altar Guild* - Maryanne Siegert

*Christian Education* -

**Pastor Frank, Pastor Biles**

*Community Service* - Mary Lou Tietz

*Fellowship* - Susanne Howard

*Fundraising* - Linda Grahe

*Mutual Ministry* - Mary Lou Tietz

*Open Door Feeding Ministry* - Linda Harry

*Personnel* - Billy Haynes

*Property-Green Sustainable Living* - Charlie Brown

*Senior Adult Ministry (S.A.M.)* - Pr. Harry Biles

*Son & Sand* - Paul Grahe

*Stewardship* - Dan Holtzer

*Support* - Dan Holtzer

*Witness* -

*Women of the ELCA* - Debbie Ryan

## FEBRUARY BIBLE LESSONS

<b>Sunday, February 4</b> <b>Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</b>	<b>Isaiah 40:21-31</b> <b>Psalm 147:1-11, 20c</b> <b>1 Corinthians 9:16-23</b> <b>Mark 1:29-39</b>
<b>Sunday, February 11</b> <b>Transfiguration of Our Lord</b> <b>Last Sunday after Epiphany</b>	<b>2 Kings 2:1-12</b> <b>Psalm 50:1-6</b> <b>2 Corinthians 4:3-6</b> <b>Matthew 25:31-46</b>
<b>Sunday, February 18</b> <b>First Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>Genesis 9:8-17</b> <b>Psalm 25:1-10</b> <b>1 Peter 3:18-22</b> <b>Mark 1:9-15</b>
<b>Sunday, February 25</b> <b>Second Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16</b> <b>Psalm 22:23-31</b> <b>Romans 4:13-25</b> <b>Mark 8:31-38</b>

